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FIRE RAVAGES PART OF HISTORY

A massive fire tore through the historic Jubilee building in downtown Moose Jaw on Wednesday night. The fire destroyed four businesses and 20 apartments, leaving 21 residents homeless. The Red Cross and Salvation Army are accepting financial donations for the tenants. Story, page 2.

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO IN REGINA

$40M for consultants is a cash cow: NDP

Lean. Province spent millions over four years for advice on spending and health care

Quoted

"Lean is ... also about better care and a more efficient system."

Premier Brad Wall, on the benefits of the province's Lean program.

Premier Brad Wall is defending his government's decision to spend $40 million over four years on consultants who look for ways to reduce spending and streamline health care.

The Opposition NDP says the program, known as Lean, has been a cash cow for those consultants.

"We should be able to learn Lean principles and enact them for much, much less than what this government is spending," NDP Leader Cam Broten said Thursday.

The province could have spent that money on more care aides or fixing senior care, he suggested.

Wall said the program has already paid for itself with savings on the design for a new children's hospital in Saskatoon and a new hospital in Moose Jaw. Before Lean, 42 per cent of mental-health and addictions appointments were cancelled in Regina and that has dropped to zero, he added.

The government also says $35 million has been saved on better management of blood and plasma products.

"But Lean's not just about savings. Lean is about reducing time to care. It is about reducing the wait time between the diagnosis and a consultation and actual treatment. It is about managing workplace absenteeism," Wall said.

"So Lean is not just about efficiencies or saving money.... This is also about better care and a more efficient system."

Lean was originally created in the manufacturing sector, but has since been applied to many other sectors and industries.

Saskatchewan is the first jurisdiction in Canada to apply the Lean program across its entire health system.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NEWS 1

Donations sought after massive Moose Jaw fire

Dozens homeless. Twenty apartments were engulfed within minutes

SARAH TAGUIAM
Metro in Regina

Donations are being accepted for the nearly two dozen people who are homeless after a fire destroyed a historic building in downtown Moose Jaw.

Moose Jaw's fire department responded on Wednesday at 10:16 p.m. to the blaze at 71 High St. West near 1st Avenue Northwest, but couldn't save the Jubilee block.

Heavy smoke wafted from the two-storey structure as four businesses — a restaurant, a photography shop and two clothing stores — and 20 apartments above them were engulfed in flames within minutes.

"It was beyond repair last night ... so in the interest of public safety, to help extinguish the fire, we demolished the building," city fire Chief Rod Montgomery told Metro on Thursday, while a crew used an excavator at the site.

Salvation Army spokesman Mervyn Halvorsen witnessed the fire tear through the building, but what struck him were residents suddenly realizing their apartments were gone.

"The streets were full of people, and amidst all those people were the residents (who) live there," Halvorsen said.

"Some of them were in tears because they knew they lost everything."

None of the 21 tenants were injured. The Red Cross plans to help them until Monday, to give them time to find shelter.

"We ensured that everyone has a place to stay, whether that's family or friends or in a hotel," said Red Cross outreach co-ordinator Judi Robertson.

According to Robertson, only financial donations are being accepted for the residents through the Red Cross, Salvation Army and social services.

The cause of the fire hasn't been determined.

"What happened was so unfortunate," Montgomery said, declining to estimate the damage.

"Everybody has to pick up the pieces, but the residents and the business owners of Moose Jaw are resilient."

Donations can be made through the Red Cross at 306-692-9776 or the Salvation Army at 306-692-5899.

Fire crews used a ladder truck to douse hot spots on Thursday in the rubble remaining after the blaze in downtown Moose Jaw. The fire swept through four businesses and 20 apartments on Wednesday night. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO IN REGINA

Tasering woman may have saved her life: Top cop

Police Chief Clive Weighill says the use of a Taser, for the first time by Saskatoon police, may have saved the life of a 26-year-old woman.

"We never know how often we're going to have to use a weapon like this" Weighill said. "But I certainly think it demonstrates the value of an option less than lethal force when it's used appropriately."

At approximately 2 a.m. on Thursday, police responded to the 100 block of Edinburgh Place where a woman was threatening to harm herself. While police were trying to de-escalate the situation, she advanced on an officer with a butcher knife.

After repeated attempts to disarm her, an officer deployed a taser.

While Weighill said it was an "unfortunate incident," he said the other option would have likely been a firearm.

"I hate to second guess what may have happened or what may not have happened," he said. "But certainly that option would have been available to the police officer would he not have had the option of a CEW (Taser).

"So we could have had somebody shot, or we could have an officer injured."

The woman was taken to hospital as a precautionary measure, but was not injured.

A preliminary inquiry found the officer acted within police guidelines. Now a use of force report will be submitted to the service's internal review committee and then the Saskatchewan Police Commission.

The woman, Anima Hossein Ireen, was charged with assaulting a police officer and appeared in court Thursday. She will return March 24.

MORGAN MODJSEKI/METRO

FUTURE 40 CATCHUP: RACHEL MIELKE

CBC's Future 40 project is entering its second year — this time partnering with Metro to showcase Saskatchewan's upcoming young leaders on multiple platforms. All this week, Metro will be featuring a profile of a 2013 winner.

KIRIAKO IATRIDIS

JACOB MORGAN
jacob.morgan@metronews.ca

Rachel Mielke has leveraged her passions into lucrative opportunities.

The 33-year-old CEO of the Hillberg & Berk jewelry company was recognized last year in CBC's Future 40 contest. She began making jewelry in high school and pursued the hobby as a career after completing her business administration degree at the University of Regina.

"Designing jewelry is a dream job," said Mielke. "It's so much fun accessorizing women and making women feel beautiful."

She described the Hillberg & Berk esthetic as timeless with "an element of sparkle and boldness."

While Mielke still takes a hands-on approach to the creative vision, managing the business is more than a full-time job. Hillberg & Berk sees millions in annual sales and has served celebrity clients including Celine Dion and Michelle Obama.

And from the time Mielke was featured in Future 40, she has enjoyed one of her most incredible experiences yet. In the fall, the lieutenant-governor of Saskatchewan commissioned a brooch for Queen Elizabeth.

"It's been a really tremendous year for our company," said Mielke.

The floral piece is set in 18-karat white gold and encrusted in diamonds. Mielke said it was an honour to represent her home city of Regina and the province.

"There is so much talent in Saskatchewan," she said.

In addition to creating stunning products, Hillberg & Berk has a social conscience. The company makes seasonal donations and plans to launch its own foundation in the fall, said Mielke, which will include an award for women at the U of R studying business.

Online

For more information on CBC's Future 40 project, head over to cbc.ca/saskatoon

Prizes

Nominations for this year's CBC Future 40 are open until March 14. All finalists receive:

- An invitation to the CBC Future 40 networking reception
- A chance to win an iPad 3G

Western links. Premiers aim to make moving between provinces easier

The premiers of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have agreed to make it easier for people moving between the provinces to license their cars or continue apprenticeships.

Starting in April 2015, drivers won't need to get their cars inspected if their vehicles are less than four years old.

Nor will they need an inspection if one has been done at a designated facility within the last 90 days.

Currently, all vehicles must be inspected once they arrive in the new province, but that can be cumbersome and costly for workers and families.

The premiers have also agreed that apprentices in the skilled trades will be able to move without having to start their training all over again.

They say that will be better for employers that operate in more than one province and will allow western provinces to more easily share training resources.

B.C. Premier Christy Clark, Alberta Premier Alison Redford and Saskatchewan's Brad Wall were supposed to gather in Regina on Thursday for a meeting of what they call the "New West Partnership." It ended up being a conference call instead.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tim Bozon. Doctors trying to wake WHL player with meningitis from coma

A junior hockey player hospitalized in Saskatoon with meningitis remains in critical condition, but is stable and improving.

A statement by the Saskatoon Health Region says doctors are slowly trying to wake Tim Bozon from a medically induced coma.

His family has indicated he is responding to verbal stimuli.

Bozon plays for the Kootenay Ice of the Western Hockey League and is a prospect with the NHL Montreal Canadiens.

The 19-year-old was admitted March 1 to Saskatoon's Royal University Hospital where he was diagnosed.

His parents, Philippe and Helene, say they have been overwhelmed by email and social-media messages of support from people around the world.

"The family is very appreciative and will respond sometime in the near future," said the statement released Thursday. "The family also wants to express thanks to the doctors and staff at Royal University Hospital for the care Tim has received."

The Western Hockey League has established a trust fund to assist the Bozon family with medical and rehabilitation costs not covered by insurance. Details are to be released later this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A firefighter applies water to rubble on Thursday, a day after a gas leak triggered an explosion in East Harlem, N.Y. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More bodies pulled from N.Y. blast site

Harlem disaster. Mayor hopes to 'find others still alive' as rescue workers search overnight through smouldering wreckage

Rescuers working amid cold, gusty winds and billowing smoke pulled four additional bodies overnight from the rubble of two Manhattan apartment buildings, as the death toll rose Thursday to at least seven from a gas leak-triggered explosion that reduced the area to a pile of smashed bricks, splinters and mangled metal.

The explosion Wednesday morning in East Harlem injured more than 60 people, with searchers still trying to locate others a day later.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said Thursday that the city was "hoping to find others still alive" and then "to determine exactly what happened here."

Crews used generator-powered floodlights and thermal imaging cameras to identify heat spots — bodies or pockets of fire — at the site. Police guarding the scene wore masks and neighbourhood residents covered faces with scarfs amid the thick, acrid air.

Construction equipment with iron jaws picked up the smouldering debris, first depositing it on the pavement, then hoisting it onto trucks that hauled it away. The debris included structural beams, pieces of windows and residents' belongings.

Workers initially were hampered from fully accessing the building space because of a sinkhole caused by a subsurface water main break. The weather also posed a challenge, with temperatures dropping into the 20s and rain falling overnight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phone-hacking scandal

Journalist says Princess Di gave him royal info

A journalist on trial in Britain's phone-hacking scandal said Thursday that Princess Diana gave him information on the royals as part of her feud with her estranged husband, Prince Charles.

Former News of the World royal editor Clive Goodman said Diana handed over the data when she was going through a "very, very difficult time" and was looking for media support.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida

Man accused of shooting texter texted first: Docs

A former police officer accused of killing a man in a Florida movie theatre during a dispute over texting sent a text moments before the incident, according to documents released Thursday.

Curtis Reeves' son, Matthew Reeves, told police his father texted him at 1:04 p.m. Jan. 13, documents show. Reeves told his son he was seated inside the theatre. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal

Ex-cop pleads guilty to selling info to Hells Angels

An ex-Montreal police investigator broke down in tears Thursday after pleading guilty to a charge of gangsterism for selling information to criminals.

Benoit Roberge said he became involved with the Hells Angels because a member of the gang threatened his family. "My life is ruined," Roberge, 50, said in a teary-eyed address to the court after the guilty pleas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manitoba

Training accident leaves nine soldiers injured

A collision between two military trucks engaged in a training exercise has sent nine Manitoba soldiers to hospital. Reports indicate none of the soldiers had life-threatening injuries.

The crash occurred Wednesday near Canadian Forces Base Shilo, which is east of Brandon, Man.

Base officials say an investigation has been launched into the cause of the crash. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two dead at SXSW festival after driver plows through crowd

Bystanders assist first responders in Austin, Texas, early Thursday morning, where a suspected drunken driver barrelled through police barricades and drove down a crowded street at the South by Southwest music festival, killing two people and injuring 23 in an act authorities say was intentional. The driver, whose name has not been released, faces two counts of capital murder and 23 counts of aggravated assault with a vehicle. COLIN KERRIGAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malaysia Airlines. Search widens for missing plane

Malaysian authorities expanded their search for a missing plane westward toward India on Thursday, saying it may have flown for several hours after its last contact with the ground.

That scenario would make finding the Boeing 777 a vastly more difficult task, and raises the possibility that searchers have been looking in the wrong place for the plane and its 239 passengers and crew since it disappeared early Saturday.

Search planes were sent Thursday to search an area off the southern tip of Vietnam where Chinese satellite images showed three suspected floating objects, but they saw only ocean.

"There is nothing. We went there, there is nothing," said acting Malaysian Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China. Police arrest man who runs rights website

Police in China on Thursday took away a veteran activist who runs a rights monitoring website, and seized his computers and mobile phones, the campaigner's mother said.

Eleven police officers turned up at Huang Qi's home in the city of Chengdu and produced a summons for Huang before taking him away, said his mother, Pu Wenqing.

Huang founded a rights monitoring website and has long been one of China's most outspoken advocates for the rights of people who try to bring their grievances to the attention of the government but often face police harassment. He served a five-year prison sentence starting in 2003 on subversion charges linked to politically sensitive articles posted on his site.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keystone. Former Obama official endorses pipeline

U. S. President Barack Obama's former national security adviser says rejecting the Keystone XL pipeline would be a gift to Vladimir Putin and a blow to the historic U.S. goal of attaining energy independence.

James Jones delivered a staunch endorsement on geostrategic grounds during a Senate hearing Thursday. He said energy scarcity is a powerful weapon — as evidenced over the years in Iran and Venezuela, in Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and in Osama bin Laden's threats to attack energy infrastructure.

He said the latest example is Russia, where the threat of gas shortages and higher prices is wielded not only against Ukraine but also against European attempts to impose sanctions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alaska.
New dino species uncovered

Scientists have discovered a new species of dinosaur that called the Arctic home 70 million years ago.

Nanuqsaurus hoglundi was a — relatively — tiny cousin of the Tyrannosaurus rex.

The unidentified fossilized fragments of the skull and jaw were found in northern Alaska almost eight years ago, in an area known as the Kikak-Tegoseak quarry, on the North Slope close to the Yukon border.

"The big difference between Tyrannosaurus rex and Nanuqsaurus, and Tarbosaurus for example, which is the Asian tyrannosaur, is that Nanuqsaurus is about half the size," said Tony Fiorillo of the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Texas.

"We feel that's an adaptation to life in the North."

Nanuqsaurus — named for the native Inupiat word for polar bear — had a skull about 64 centimetres long and stood about two metres high at the hip.

He inhabited a drastically different Arctic than the one we know today. During the Cretaceous period, the area was a coastal plain which, like now, had the Arctic Ocean to the north and snow-capped mountains to the south. But the Arctic was much warmer, and the area was covered in tall, conifer forests and flowering plants. The temperature would have been similar to western Canada today.

Although Alberta is world-famous for its dinosaur bone beds, Fiorillo said the Arctic remains largely uncharted territory. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chow: 'We deserve better'

Former NDP MP Olivia Chow holds her granddaughter Solace Campbell, 2, after launching her candidacy for Toronto mayor on Thursday. The veteran left-wing politician refused to discuss Mayor Rob Ford's numerous scandals, but said, "He is no role model for my granddaughters."

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec election

PQ candidate out after offensive Facebook post

A Parti Québécois candidate quit his campaign Thursday after posting a photo of a half-naked white woman holding up her middle finger captioned "(expletive) Islam."

Jean Carriere stepped aside after the photo started to make the rounds on social media Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dirty laundry

Trudeau bars candidate to avoid infighting

Justin Trudeau's team announced Christine Innes will not be allowed to run for a nomination after complaints that her husband, former MP Tony Ianno, has been using "intimidation and bullying"to lure supporters from the recently elected Chrystia Freeland.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Under siege, Redford has a day to forget

Bullying accusations.
Backbencher quits, says it's 'the way she treats people'

Alberta Premier Alison Redford THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Alberta Premier Alison Redford was a leader under siege Thursday, facing caucus turmoil, a dysfunctional office and an accusation that she is an abusive bully, prone to tantrums and fits of rage.

It's the latest chapter in what has become Redford's nightmarish narrative of sagging support amid revelations of lavish spending on herself and her inner circle.

On Wednesday, she tried to stem the caucus revolt by agreeing to pay back $45,000 she and her aide, Brad Stables, spent to fly to South Africa for Nelson Mandela's funeral.

That was not enough, however, to stop Calgary backbencher Len Webber from quitting caucus Thursday to sit as an independent.

Webber told reporters in Calgary that Redford is disrespectful and has issues with uncontrolled anger.

Webber said he has personally felt Redford's sting.

"She has treated me with disrespect. I have told her head-on, before the leadership review (last November), that I would not be supporting her because of the way she treats people," he said.

"I believe that you should treat people the way that you expect to be treated, and that is with respect, and I don't see that."

Redford, asked later by reporters in Edmonton for her reaction to Webber's remarks, said "no reaction."

Alleged temper tantrums

"She's just really not a nice lady."

Len Webber, Alberta MLA

She made the comment as she left Government House. Inside, Redford's caucus met without her to hash out matters in a private discussion. Many refused to say anything when they emerged.

Redford's "no reaction" was her only public comment Thursday.

After returning from Government House, she did not attend the start of question period to take questions from the other leaders. She has missed question period three of the last four days.

When news photographers camped outside the main entrance to her office, hoping to catch a shot of her in the hallway, her staff shut the door.

There were problems in her communications office.

Redford was to fly to Regina on Thursday for a conference with Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall and British Columbia's Christy Clark.

Rumours surfaced Wednesday that Redford would not make the trip, but her office reassured reporters late Wednesday that she would go. By Thursday morning, reporters learned through Wall's office that Redford would not be going but that the three premiers would talk by phone.

Redford's communications director, Stefan Baranski, disputed the characterization of dysfunction in the office. He said the change of plans did not merit a news release.

"We don't want to put out a news release when travel plans change," said Baranski.

NDP Leader Brian Mason said business is falling by the wayside: bills are not being presented, no one is speaking to the bills before the legislature and the house is adjourning early.

"The government is essentially paralyzed," said Mason.

During question period Thursday afternoon, Redford's two lieutenants, Hancock and Campbell, employed the premier's unused desk for their overflow of books and briefing notes. All around them Tory MLAs were varying shades of grim as opposition members questioned them again on their use of government planes for party fundraisers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cairo

Attack on army bus leaves 1 dead

Masked gunmen opened fire on an army bus in Cairo on Thursday, killing one soldier and wounding three in a rare attack on troops in the Egyptian capital, security officials and a military spokesman said.

Security officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media, did not say who was responsible for the attack, which bore the hallmarks of Islamic militants.

But the armed forces spokesman, Col. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, blamed the Muslim Brotherhood — the country's leading Islamist group from which ousted president Mohammed Morsi hails — for the early-morning attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thailand

Suspected human-trafficking ring busted

Thai authorities on Thursday detained 220 suspected Turkish migrants hiding in a secluded camp in the deep south and believed to be victims of a trafficking ring.

Acting on a tip from villagers, immigration police raided the jungle camp located up a mountain behind rubber plantations in southern Songkhla province, said police Col. Chusak Panas-umporn. The group included 78 men, 60 women and 82 children.

Thailand has long been a transit point and hub for human traffickers, mostly transporting ethnic Rohingya fleeing violence and persecution in neighbouring Myanmar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Oscar Pistorius covers his head with his hands and a notebook as he listens to evidence

A 'trail of led cop to

Oscar Pistorius trial. Former police colonel testifies, grisly crime scene described in detail

Photographs of Oscar Pistorius's cocked 9-mm pistol lying on a mat on the blood-stained bathroom floor and the blood splatter on walls and furniture in his house were shown at the double-amputee Olympian's murder trial Thursday, building a detailed picture of the scene where he killed Reeva Steenkamp.

One of the first two police officers at the house to investigate the shooting testified that he followed a "trail of blood" when he got there.

Former police colonel G.S. van Rensburg said he traced spots and bigger blood marks downstairs where Steenkamp lay dead from three gunshot wounds and followed them across the floor, up the staircase, through a small lounge area and then into Pistorius's bedroom. Ultimately, van Rensburg reached the bathroom where the world-famous athlete shot his girlfriend in the early hours of Valentine's Day last year.

There, van Rensburg said he found Pistorius's gun, hammer back and the safety off, on a mat. There were also spent bullet casings, cellphones and a blood-soaked towel on the bathroom floor, and the cricket bat Pistorius says he used to break down the toilet door to get to Steenkamp. In the toilet cubicle, there was a darker pool of blood and the wooden splinters where the locked door, through which Pistorius shot the model, had been bashed through.

Pistorius, 27, faces a possible life sentence if convicted of murder. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges against him and says he shot the 29-year-old Steenkamp by mistake, thinking she was a dangerous intruder in the tiny

during his trial in Pretoria, South Africa, Thursday. ALET PRETORIUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/POOL

blood' bedroom

toilet cubicle in a bathroom of his Pretoria villa. Prosecutors charge that he intentionally killed her.

Details in the photos were highlighted by the prosecution as part of its case against Pistorius. One was a gun holster on a table by the side of the bed where Pistorius says Steenkamp, and not him, was sleeping that night. The size of the bedroom suggested Pistorius had to walk close to where he says he thought Steenkamp was still sleeping to get to the bathroom. In the bathroom, the gun rested on a mat that was clean and out of kilter with the blood stains around it, head prosecutor Gerrie Nel noted.

As van Rensburg, who resigned from the police force last year, was led through each photograph by Nel, Pistorius mainly kept his head down in court and appeared to avoid looking at the TV monitors where the images were shown. The screen next to Pistorius was switched off before the exhibit.

Van Rensburg confirmed that the photos reflected accurately how he found the scene when he got there just before 4 a.m. on Feb. 14, 2013 — about 30 to 40 minutes after prosecutors say Pistorius shot Steenkamp.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Graphic photos

The photos provided vivid images.

- Blood stains from the severe wounds he inflicted on his girlfriend were splattered on a white wall close to a group of trophies in the multiple Paralympic champion's home.
- Upstairs, there was a black air gun rifle and a blue baseball bat near the door to Pistorius's bedroom.

Evidence in perjury trial OK'd

A judge has ruled the Crown can present evidence at the perjury trial for an RCMP officer that alleges four Mounties colluded to fake a story about Robert Dziekanski's death.

Const. Kwesi Millington is on trial for perjury in connection with his testimony at a public inquiry that examined what happened when Dziekanski was stunned with a Taser at Vancouver's airport.

Millington's lawyer argued the Crown should not be able to claim the officer colluded with the other Mounties before speaking to investigators, because a judge rejected the same argument last year when another officer was acquitted

Judge William Ehrcke says the legal principle that Millington's lawyers attempted to use only applies if the same person is on trial.

Const. Bill Bentley was found not guilty of perjury last year, and Ehrcke points out Millington wasn't formally part of that trial in any way.

The Crown is appealing Bentley's acquittal, while former corporal Benjamin (Monty) Robinson and Const. Gerry Rundel are expected to stand trial separately later this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP Const. Kwesi Millington at his perjury trial in Vancouver on March 10. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. military. Transgender people can serve: Report

An independent commission led by a former top U.S. health official has concluded there "is no compelling medical reason" for the U.S. armed forces to prohibit transgender Americans from serving and that President Barack Obama could lift the decades-old ban without approval from Congress, according to a report being released Thursday.

The report said Department of Defence regulations designed to keep transgender people from joining or remaining in the military on the grounds of psychological and physical unfitness are based on outdated beliefs that require thousands of current service members either to leave the service or to forgo the medical procedures and other changes that could align their bodies and gender identities.

At least a dozen nations, including Canada, allow military service by transgender individuals. Transgender rights advocates have been lobbying the Pentagon to revisit the blanket ban in the U.S. since Congress in 2010 repealed the law that barred gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals from openly serving in the military.

Army Reserve Capt. Sage Fox, a transgender woman who was placed on inactive status. RICH PEDRONCELLI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston. Gay veterans won't be allowed to march in St. Patrick's Day parade

A gay rights advocacy group says it is ending its efforts to get organizers of Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade to allow gay military veterans to march.

The executive director of MassEquality said Wednesday the group had reached a dead end in its negotiations with the parade sponsor and won't participate in Sunday's parade.

The parade sponsor, the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, said a week ago that it had been "misled" by MassEquality and had ended negotiations.

No deal was reached despite the intervention of Boston Mayor Martin Walsh and Congressman Stephen Lynch.

Walsh says he won't march if gay groups are excluded. A Walsh spokeswoman said the mayor was disappointed that no deal was reached.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria

More than 100 villagers killed

Dozens of gunmen on motorbikes have killed more than 100 villagers in an ongoing conflict over land in northern Nigeria, survivors said Thursday.

The attacks, which began Tuesday night, left scores of people fleeing on foot from the four targeted villages about 180 kilometres south of Katsina city.

Kabiru Ismail of Maigora village said the first raid came late Tuesday and residents were continuing to recover bodies of people who had fled into the bush with the gunmen in pursuit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel-Palestine conflict

Rocket fire casts doubt on ceasefire deal

The Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad said Thursday it had agreed to halt a wave of rocket fire on Israel, though soon after the announcement seven rockets fired from Gaza exploded inside Israel.

Islamic Jihad denied it launched the attack and it wasn't immediately clear who fired the rockets. Ceasefire deals have not always been honoured by militants and the attack raised doubts about the ceasefire offer made by Islamic Jihad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protest in Greece for teen killed by police tear gas canister

Kurds who live in Greece shouts slogans in front of riot police as they hold banners with the portraits of Turkish Berkin Elvan, left, and Greek Alexandros Grigoropoulos during a rally in Athens on Thursday. Hundreds of people tried to approach the Turkish Embassy in the Greek capital to protest against the death of the teenager in Istanbul. The 15-year-old boy, Berkin Elvan, died Tuesday, nine months after being hit by a police tear gas canister during anti-government protests and slipping into a coma. Fifteen-year old Alexandros Grigoropoulos was shot dead by police in central Athens on Dec. 6, 2008, sparking riots in Greek cities that lasted nearly three weeks. THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Algerian Gitmo prisoner released

Guantanamo Bay. Held for 12 years without charge, Ahmed Bel Bacha is released

An Algerian held for 12 years without charge at Guantanamo Bay has been sent back to his homeland, officials said Thursday, portraying the transfer as a step toward eventual closure of the prison on the U.S. base in Cuba.

Ahmed Bel Bacha was transferred to the custody of the Algerian government, bringing the detainee population at Guantanamo to 154, the Pentagon said.

The U.S. has repatriated 17 Guantanamo prisoners to Algeria, where they typically spend around two weeks in custody for questioning before being released. Bel Bacha must contend with the fact that he was convicted of terrorism-related offences in absentia in 2009, while still in Guantanamo. His lawyers said he was nevertheless eager to return to his homeland.

President Barack Obama GETTY

"He has received assurances from both the U.S. and the Algerians that he will be fairly and humanely treated on his return so that's what we expect," said Polly Rossdale, a member of his legal team from the British human rights group Reprieve.

Bel Bacha will have the right under Algerian law to contest his conviction and receive a new trial, said Ian Moss, a spokesman for the State Department office working to close Guantanamo.

Bel Bacha, 44, was captured in Pakistan as he fled the U.S. attack on Afghanistan and was detained as a suspected militant with links to al-Qaida. He was sent in January 2002 to Guantanamo, where his lawyers say he was subjected to violent interrogations and physical abuse. He participated in at least two long-term hunger strikes at the prison.

He told interrogators that he fled Algeria amid that country's civil war in 1999 because of threats from Islamic militants. U.S. officials said he travelled to Afghanistan, with aid from radicals at London's Finsbury Park Mosque, and trained with al-Qaida, according to military documents. He has been cleared for release from Guantanamo since at least 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Renewed effort

President Barack Obama came into office vowing to close Guantanamo Bay, but Congress imposed restrictions on releases and transfers, including a ban on sending any Guantanamo prisoner to the U.S.

- Obama last year said he would renew efforts to close the prison, and Congress in December eased the restrictions on overseas transfers.

Crimean referendum prompts West to increase threats against Russia

Crisis in Ukraine.
Gov't and Western allies warn Russia against trying to annex strategic peninsula

Russia conducted new military manoeuvres near its border with Ukraine on Thursday, and President Vladimir Putin said the world shouldn't blame his country for what he called Ukraine's "internal crisis."

In Crimea, where the public will vote on Sunday whether to break away from Ukraine and become part of Russia, jittery residents lined up at their banks to withdraw cash from their accounts amid uncertainty over the future of the peninsula, which Russian troops now control.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov plan to meet in London on Friday in a last-ditch bid to end the standoff over the Crimean referendum, which Ukraine and the West have rejected as illegitimate.

In Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel sharply criticized Russia, saying the territorial integrity of Ukraine cannot be compromised.

Speaking to Germany's parliament, Merkel said Russia risks "massive" political and economic consequences, if it does not enter into "negotiations that achieve results" over the situation in Ukraine.

If Moscow does not begin to "de-escalate" the situation, Merkel said, the 28 European Union nations, the U.S. and other allies are prepared to take even stronger measures such as freezing bank accounts of Russians and implementing travel restrictions that would hit Russia economically.

On Wednesday, Moscow rejected the Ukrainian government's claim that a massive Russian military buildup near the countries' border was raising the threat of a possible invasion.

An elderly man holds a Ukrainian flag next to Cossacks guarding Crimea's regional parliament building in Simferopol, Ukraine, Thursday. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

But on Thursday Russia's Defence Ministry announced that thousands of Russian troops in their regions of Rostov, Belgorod, Kursk and Tambov bordering Ukraine are involved in the exercises, which will continue until the end of the month.

Putin, who has received his parliament's permission to use the Russian military in Ukraine, has warned that he reserves the right to "use all means" to protect Russian speakers in Ukraine from violent nationalists, even though there have been no signs they are facing such a threat.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine's economy

Canada offers $220M to prop Ukraine finances

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says Canada will contribute $220 million to an international effort to stabilize the finances of the government of Ukraine.

He says Canada is prepared to work with the European Union, the United States and the International Monetary Fund to help Ukraine.

The minister says Ukraine seems to have enough money to keep afloat for a few months, giving the international community time to work out some solutions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Argentina's dictatorship tales praise and haunt Pope Francis

Stories of survival. Accounts say Francis' silence enabled life-saving acts

It was 1976, South America's dictatorship era, and Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the future Pope Francis, was a 30-something leader of Argentina's Jesuit order. At the time, the country's church hierarchy openly sided with the country's military junta as it kidnapped, tortured and killed thousands.

Many who were targeted were politically active and some were Marxist, but others were simply committed social workers. The right-wing military made few distinctions. Priests as well as Catholic lay workers began to disappear at the hands of death squads.

Critics have argued that Bergoglio's public silence in the face of that repression made him complicit too, and they warn against what they see as historical revisionism designed to burnish the reputation of a now-popular pope.

But the chilling accounts of survivors who credit Bergoglio with saving their lives are hard to deny. They say he conspired right under the soldiers' noses at the theological seminary he directed, providing refuge and safe passage to dozens of priests, seminarians and political dissidents marked for elimination by the 1976-1983 military regime.

Several new books assert that Bergoglio's public silence enabled him to save more people.

Sitting in a seminary garden whose tranquility was broken only by the gurgling of a fountain and leaves rustling in the breeze, theologian Juan Carlos Scannone quietly told AP of the terror he felt decades ago.

Scannone said he was targeted because he promoted a non-Marxist "theology of the people" and worked with slum-dwellers in the city's "misery villages." He said Bergoglio not only defended him against criticism within the church, but personally delivered his writings for publication even when the military was trying to find him.

"Bergoglio contributed by helping the persecuted, and he dedicated himself to obtaining the release of his kidnapped priests. Still, he didn't participate at the time in the fight against the military dictatorship in defence of human rights," said Adolfo Perez Esquivel, whose human rights work in Argentina won him the Nobel Peace Prize.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Extending a hand

Marcelo Larraquy, author of Pray for Him, said Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the future Pope Francis, saved "20 or 30" people.

- Bergoglio "remained silent in the face of atrocity," but he was determined to thwart the death squads when he could, said Larraquy, who runs investigations for the Argentine newspaper Clarin.

Jesuit priest and theologian Juan Carlos Scannone poses for a portrait at the garden of the Colegio Maximo in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He says Bergoglio helped him escape the country's military persecution. NATACHA PISARENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Gay couples fight states in court to have marriages recognized

Eight gay couples and a top civil rights group have sued the state of Florida, arguing it is discriminating against the couples by not recognizing same-sex marriages performed in states where they are legal.

The lawsuit is among the latest in a surge of challenges in America's divisive gay marriage debate.

Sandra Newson, who is a plaintiff in the Florida lawsuit with her wife Denise Hueso, said the couple moved to Massachusetts from Miami so they could get married in 2009. They adopted a son, now 15, who has cerebral palsy and they decided to move back to Florida, where they had more family to help care for him.

When they moved back, they lost legal recognition of their marriage and began encountering difficulties, such as having to prove they are their son's parents during hospital stays and battling auto insurance companies for seemingly mundane things such as the marriage discount.

Spreading

Seventeen states and Washington, D.C., allow gay marriage.

- In the last 30 days, similar lawsuits have been filed in Alabama and Indiana.
- In Kentucky, a federal judge ordered the state to recognize same-sex marriages performed legally in other states and countries.

Howard Simon, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, said same-sex couples suffer discrimination in many ways. Examples include problems getting spouses covered by health insurance, difficulties with inheritance rules and retirement benefits, and problems with workers' compensation benefits. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air India. Bomb maker to serve Canada's longest-ever perjury sentence

Convicted Air India bomb maker Inderjit Singh Reyat will serve the longest perjury sentence in Canadian history, after the B.C. Appeal Court rejected a plea to reduce the term.

The nine-year prison sentence for lying at the trial of two men accused in the terrorist plot is appropriate, the panel of three judges announced Thursday.

"The gravity of the trial at which Mr. Reyat perjured himself is without comparison," Justice Mary Saunders wrote on behalf of the panel.

Reyat hid the extent of his knowledge of the conspiracy alleged to be behind the mass murder, the judges noted.

Reyat is the only person ever convicted in the bombings of two flights that originated in Vancouver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inderjit Singh Reyat, outside B.C. Supreme Court on Sept. 10, 2010. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Jamaica

Kartel convicted of murder

Popular dancehall reggae star Vybz Kartel and three co-defendants were convicted of murder Thursday in a high-profile trial under heavy security in this Caribbean country's supreme court.

They were found guilty of the October 2011 killing of Clive "Lizard" Williams.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Back pay and damages

Workers sue McDonald's

McDonald's workers in California, Michigan and New York filed lawsuits against the chain this week, saying it engages in a variety of illegal practices to avoid paying them what they're owed.

The issues aren't exclusive to McDonald's, but Lawyers said they targeted the company because it's an industry leader.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mississippi

Man who woke up in body bag dies

A 78-year-old Mississippi man has died two weeks after waking up in a body bag at a funeral home after being mistakenly pronounced deceased.

Walter Williams died at his home in Lexington around 1 a.m. Thursday. No cause was released.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Road safety

U.S. to track trucks hours electronically

Commercial trucks and buses operating in the U.S. that cross state lines would have to be equipped with electronic devices that record how many hours the vehicles are in operation, according to a government proposal Thursday aimed at preventing accidents by tired drivers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pot job fair stokes high interest in Colorado

Homegrown demand. Line of job applicants snaked around corner as legal pot business lights up big profits

When Tim Cullen was opening his first marijuana business four years ago, the high school biology teacher-turned-pot entrepreneur struggled to get resumés and references from job applicants.

"Everyone's experience was on the black market," Cullen said. Now, he said, "it's come out of the closet."

Out of the closet, down the street and around the corner. That's where the line of hopefuls stretched Thursday outside a central Denver office building that was hosting a marijuana industry job fair.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Money, money, money

This week, in the world's first such accounting, the Colorado Department of Revenue reported the state made roughly $2 million US in marijuana taxes in January; that is expected to grow as more retailers are licensed.

Cutting through the smog

In this December 2013 file photo, the skyline of the Lujiazui Financial District in Shanghai is seen blanketed in heavy smog. Japanese electronics maker Panasonic Corp. is compensating employees for living with air pollution in Chinese cities, such as Beijing and Shanghai, that have become notorious for high pollution. China will tighten environmental legislation and force polluters to pay compensation following renewed blasts of toxic air, the country's top legislator said Sunday.. EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Market Minute

DOLLAR
90.47¢
(+0.51¢)

TSX
14,245.14 (-73.86)

OIL
$98.20 US (+$0.21)

GOLD
$1,372.40 US (+$1.90)

Natural gas: $4.38 US (-$0.11)
Dow Jones: 16,108.89 (-231.19)

In the U.S.

Amazon raises price of Prime memberships

Amazon is raising the price of its popular Prime membership in the U.S. to $99 US per year, an increase of $20 US.

It's the first price increase since the online retailer introduced Prime, which includes two-day free shipping on many products, in 2005.

Amazon has spent heavily to grow its business and expand into new areas, from movie streaming to e-readers and groceries, and it has accomplished that goal. The company said it added a million new Prime members in the week before Christmas and a surge in online ordering in the U.S. contributed to huge delays for people sending gifts just ahead of the holiday.

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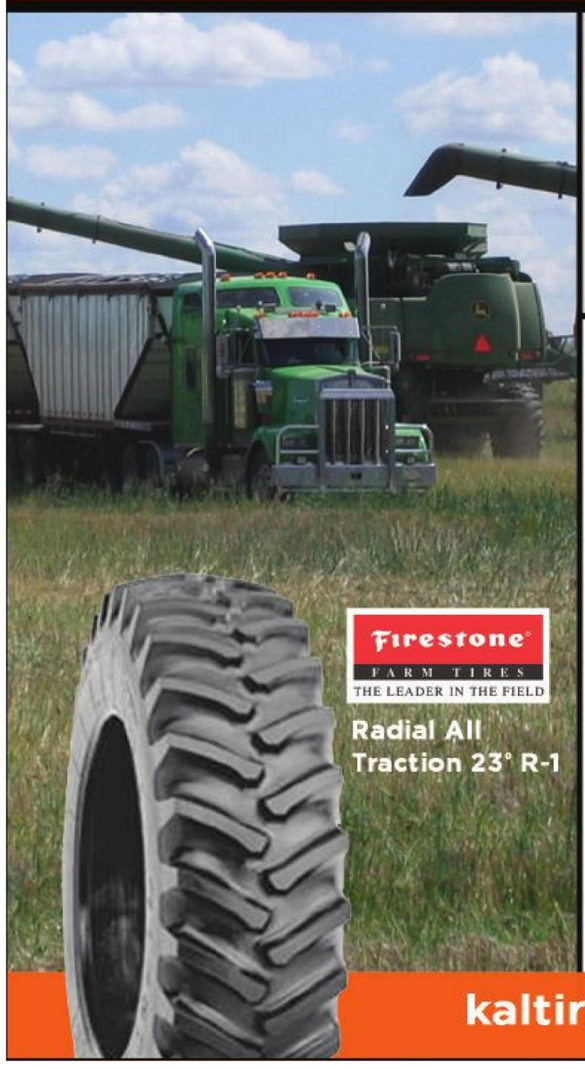

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THE WORLD ACCORDING TO KEVIN BACON

THE METRO LIST

Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 #whileTwitterwasdown. Twitter went down briefly Tuesday, but it felt like an eternity to users. By the time it came back, #whileTwitterwasdown was trending with gems like, "I tried to get real people on the street to follow me, but they just wouldn't. Elites probably," and "I was promoted at work, made six friends, and started a family." All I did was write six books, three of which were adapted to the big screen.

2 First kiss. A beautiful video of 20 strangers meeting and kissing for the first time went viral, with more than 20 million views. When people found out it was actually a fashion film by the label Wren, it didn't really dampen spirits. After all, it really was strangers kissing. And the vid really was beautiful. Plus, we're used to product endorsements on everything.

3 Bachelor finale. The finale had the narcissistic Juan Pablo trending for being such a self-serving idiot. Even his parents warned Clare and Nikki about him. In the end, he sort of picked Nikki. But we all know that the person Juan Pablo loves the most in the world is himself. That's who he should have proposed to: Juan Pablo.

4 Funny or Die. To promote his health-care plan, President Obama sat down for an interview with actor Zach Galifianakis on his comedy web series Between Two Ferns on Funny or Die. Boy did it work. White House senior communications adviser Tara McGuinness tweeted "FunnyorDie.com is the #1 source of referrals to HealthCare.gov right now." Laughter really is the best medicine.

5 Strombo. Hockey Night in Canada named him as their primary host and anchor, taking over from Ron MacLean, who will have a diminished role next year. Lost in the hoopla was the announcement Strombo's terrific show George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight will be cancelled at season's end. I will miss it big time.

6 #AskBaird. Canada's Foreign Minister John Baird hosted a live Twitter chat where you could ask him questions. This was refreshing for a politician to be this transparent in real time about what Canada is doing on the international stage. Baird was self-deprecating, saying in one tweet, "suggest trying someone else for cooking & fashion tips."

7 Kevin Bacon. A YouTube video titled Kevin Explains the '80s to Millennials garnered nearly two million views as a straight-faced Bacon tried to explain what the '80s and its VCRs and parachute pants meant. "You want to know my favourite app? Rubik's Cube," Bacon says. Google that, millennials, to find out what it is.

8 Jack Bauer. It was announced the iconic character will be coming back to TV four years after the series finale. This time Jack is an exiled ex-CIA agent who has to prevent the assassination of the U.S. president — and prevent a world war. Yes, life is never easy for Jack Bauer. But it is for Kiefer Sutherland.

9 Daylight saving time. The first week adjusting to daylight saving is always a nag, but all the more so when the most famous mayor in the world — yes, Mayor Ford — tweets out "Daylight saving time starts this evening, turn your clocks back and change batteries in smoke alarms." For the rest of this year, Ford will be two hours behind the rest of the world.

10 22-pound house cat attacks. It read like an Onion article — a 911 call was placed by a family whose 22-pound Himalayan cat, Lux, who had a "history of violence," was holding them "hostage" inside their bedroom after attacking their baby. Don't worry: The police caught the grumpy cat after it attempted "to flee custody" by climbing on top of the fridge.

11 www. Remember when the telephone turned 25? The radio? The TV? I don't either. But I will remember when the World Wide Web did — March 12, 2014. Seriously though, can you believe it's already been around a quarter-century? Before we know it, Twitter will seem ancient when we're beaming around space tweeting our adventures.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Take a guess at what this is

Man-of-war can kill fish and humans

It looks like a bejewelled silk scarf but you'd be a fool to wear it. This image shows the Portuguese man-of-war, a sea creature whose stinging tentacles are capable of killing fish and even humans. Eric Röttinger's shot is winner of the non-scientific category of the annual cover contest by molecular biology journal EMBO. METRO

Too many tendrils

50

metres is how long the venomous tendrils of a Portuguese man-of-war can extend to — that's roughly four lengths of an average-sized city bus.
Ten metres is the average length for this seafaring creature's appendages. The tendrils' venom-filled capsules, or nematocysts, are capable of paralyzing and killing fish, and on rare occasions humans. Some people have described a sting from the man-of-war as a feeling like being struck by a lightning bolt.

Blob tag

- **Biology.** Despite its appearance, the Portuguese man-of-war (Physalia physalis) is neither a jellyfish nor even a single animal. It's actually a siphonophore, a floating colony of multiple organisms working in symbiosis with each other.
- **Structure.** It comprises four individual polyps (or organisms): one forming a gas-filled bladder that floats on the sea surface and looks like an old warship (by which the creature gets its nautical name), one that catches small fish with its long tendrils, and two others that are in charge of digestion and reproduction.
- **Habitat.** Found in groups of 1,000, floating in warm waters throughout the world's oceans.

ERIC RÖTTINGER/KAHIKAIIMAGES.COM

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

CONTRIBUTED

You've got mail. In honour of the World Wide Web's — almost called The Information Mesh, The Mine of Information — silver anniversary, we present you with a few Internet firsts:

1989: AOL launches
1994: First banner ad, first online purchase (a pepperoni/mushroom Pizza Hut pizza)
1995: Craigslist, Match.com go online
2003: Apple launches iTunes
2006: Twitter begins
And the rest is history ...

Twitter

@metropicks asked: #Starbucks in the U.S. is adding a tip option on its mobile app. Do you tip your barista? @Starbucks

@Bridawns: I don't tip the cashier for bagging my groceries; why would I tip for pouring my coffee?

@EdmontonLight: I tip mine! Why?They know my name, they premake my order if they see me &they ask me how the kidlette's are;)#service

@lisambungay: I tip the regular one cause they know my name and order ;-) they're worth it!

@AllenGalley: Really? Who's next? McDonalds?

@kkjohal769: sorry I can barely afford the latte itself five dollars is a bit too much money for me and then a tip

@MonaLahey: For pouring a coffee that I have to add my cream and sugar, no. For a specialty drink HE– YES!

@RealBritbird: Yep I gave him a tip yesterday for the 4:15 at Epson

@neiliasherman: pretty soon there won't be money for coffee if we have to tip for every service. How about paying staff fairly?

@annahoward62: it's a great option for our regular customers to have more options. It's not forcing anyone to tip I think baristas get this stigma put on them that these hipster university kids that are more privileged then someone else with a minimum wage job, but the truth is a lot of us are putting ourselves through university and it's really hard on a minimum wage job. Tim's staff get more in tips then we ever will

@DazRolfey: no chance.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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Synopsis

Based on the most successful racing video game franchise ever, Need for Speed is Aaron "Breaking Bad" Paul's first lead in a feature. He plays Tobey Marshall, a speed-demon mechanic, jailed for a crime he did not commit. Out of prison with revenge against adversary Dino Brewster (Dominic Cooper) on his mind, he finagles a spot at the De Leon, a high-octane underground race that makes the Cannonball Run look like a Go-Kart sprint. You just know it's only a matter of time until someone says, "We'll settle this behind the wheel." Between him and the race, however, are miles of hard road, bounty hunters and police. Steve Gow sits in for Mark Breslin this week.

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Steve: ●●○○○

Need for Speed opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

The cars are the stars

Need for Speed. Action-packed racing tale based on a video game not one for the intellectual crowd

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Richard: Steve, remember the Mazda commercials that were on a few years ago? I felt like the kid from those ads was sitting on my shoulder whispering "zoom, zoom" into my ear for the entire running time of The Hot Wheels Movie, er…. Need for Speed. This is a fast paced car race movie that zips along as quickly as you'd hope a movie with the word speed in the title would, but character wise, it's not quite as fast or furious as you might like. The cars are the stars, while the characters are largely left in the dust. What did you think?

SG: Yes, the way they're upstaged by the racing sequences, the term "vehicular manslaughter" could easily apply to the actors. Sure, Aaron Paul showed us he had chops in Breaking Bad but that only makes the choice of playing a gravelly-voiced, vengeance-seeking street car racer all the more curious. After all, as much as Need For Speed tries to design depth in its characters, nobody in the thriller rises above conveniently routine. Or all that interesting.

RC: I liked the race scenes. They feel authentic and by and large done by brave speed demon stunt drivers without the use of CGI. They're exciting, pedal-to-the-metal sequences that put the audience in the driver's seat. You have to wonder about glorifying the romance of reckless street racing, but the movie isn't a commercial for vehicular mayhem. There are some wild rides, but there are also consequences for many of the drivers and their need for speed. I just wish the characters were stronger. It says something when the movie's most interesting character — the eccentric millionaire the Monarch, played by Michael Keaton — never gets behind the wheel of a car.

SG: He was definitely working the same oddball over-the-top angles as Nicolas Cage. Imogen Poots (That Awkward Moment) was appealing enough as a British assistant of the car's owner who hitchhikes along with Paul for the nationwide ride. However, I couldn't help thinking how contrived the entire plot was. Then again, I suppose that shouldn't be surprising considering the story was culled from a video game — albeit a very successful video game.

RC: Need for Speed isn't Downton Abbey. It's a car crazy story where characters take a backseat to the action, but if you know what a Two Lane Grasshopper is, then you'll probably get a kick out of the driving scenes.

SG: This movie definitely isn't for graduates of Juilliard's drama program. It's for high-octane gearheads who want to stuff their faces with over-buttered popcorn and watch innocent bystanders and cops get taken out in the careless (cut cunningly choreographed) act of illegal street racing. It does a fine job there but I'm not sure I'll remember much else about Need for Speed by tomorrow morning.

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Fulfilling fan dreams — for a price

Kickstarter craze. As the new Veronica Mars film hits theatres, opinions are mixed on the business of celebs asking fans to finance their projects

Veronica Mars opens today in theatres and is available on video-on-demand. CONTRIBUTED

Rob Thomas knew he might make movie history by using Kickstarter to crowdfund his Veronica Mars film. But he wasn't prepared for the posters.

Of all the prizes offered to donors of Veronica Mars — everything from a digital copy of the script for $10 to a walk-on cameo for $10,000 — the most taxing was autographing the cast-signed posters promised to more than 5,000 backers. It took several hand-cramping days and constant shuttling of boxes from one signee to the next.

"We've got our own poster handler who is in charge of getting them to us and getting them signed," Thomas said in a recent interview. "It's required, like, its own department."

But, he adds, "This movie would not exist if we had not gone down this path."

It's been a year since Thomas sent shock waves through the movie industry by turning to the crowdfunding site Kickstarter to help finance a movie based on his cultishly adored but short-lived high-school detective series. Today, the movie hits theatres and video-on-demand. As the first high-profile celebrity project to drum up money on Kickstarter, Veronica Mars is a trailblazer, albeit one with a cloudy legacy.

Thomas has already been followed by projects by Zach Braff (to fund his second directorial effort) and Spike Lee (to raise cash for his latest "joint"). The land rush into a new avenue of funding (a major struggle for most filmmakers) has raised questions about the ethics of fan-based financing. (Contributors pay for different levels of rewards, but don't share in profits.)

Veronica Mars may have introduced a democratic spirit to a green-lighting process usually controlled by film executives, but it has also opened a Pandora's box where, critics say, established insiders can take advantage of their loyal followings.

"It's a brilliant idea that's gotten out of hand," House of Cards producer Dana Brunetti recently said at a SXSW panel discussion. "It's wrong when people like Zach Braff or Spike Lee use that same service to fund their films when they already have access. I think it overshadows and takes away from the little guys who actually need the funding."

Thomas says he'd rather not be considered a poster boy for Kickstarter. "Every project has its own separate concerns," he says. Instead, he believes the choice is up to consumers.

"If it bothers you that Zach Braff probably has a lot of money from Scrubs," says Thomas, "then don't give to it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who ponied up $10,000?

- **Steven Dengler.** The 45-year-old Canadian entrepreneur and currency exchange site XE.com founder ended up playing a waiter in the film. But he also got to introduce a viral video with James Franco.

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com. **Ratings:** *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:*

Mystery/Suspense

In Fear

Director. Jeremy Lovering

Stars. Iain De Caestecker, Alice Englert

In Fear is a tense psychological horror about a young couple's fight to make it through the night. Home invasion but in a car. In real-time. Tom (De Caestecker) and Lucy (Englert) are trapped in a maze of country roads with only their vehicle for protection, terrorized by an unseen tormentor hell-bent on exploiting their worst fears.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 86% **Audience:** 50%

Drama

The Invisible Woman

Director. Ralph Fiennes

Stars. Felicity Jones, Ralph Fiennes

Nelly (Felicity Jones), a happily-married mother and schoolteacher, is haunted by her past. Her memories, provoked by remorse and guilt, take us back in time to follow the story of her relationship with Charles Dickens (Ralph Fiennes) with whom she discovered an exciting but fragile complicity. Dickens — famous, controlling and emotionally isolated within his success — falls for Nelly, who comes from a family of actors.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 76% **Audience:** 53%

Drama/Mystery/Comedy

Veronica Mars

Director. Rob Thomas

Stars. Kristen Bell, Ryan Hansen

On the eve of graduating law school, Veronica Mars has put Neptune and her amateur sleuthing days behind her. While interviewing at high-end New York law firms, Veronica Mars gets a call from her ex-boyfriend Logan, who has been accused of murder. Veronica heads back to Neptune just to help Logan find an attorney, but when things don't seem right, Veronica finds herself being pulled back into a life she thought she had left behind.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 77% **Audience:** 94%

Thriller

3 Days to Kill

Director. McG

Stars. Kevin Costner, Amber Heard

In this heart pounding action-thriller, Kevin Costner is a dangerous international spy, who is determined to give up his high stakes life to finally build a closer relationship with his estranged wife and daughter, whom he's previously kept at arm's length to keep out of danger. But first, he must complete one last mission.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 33% **Audience:** 53%

Comedy

Alan Partridge

Director. Declan Lowney

Stars. Steve Coogan

Alan Partridge (Steve Coogan) has had many ups and downs in his life. National television broadcaster. Responsible for killing a guest on live TV. Local radio broadcaster. A nervous breakdown in Dundee. His self-published book, Bouncing Back, subsequently remaindered and pulped. Alan Partridge finds Alan at the centre of a siege, when a disgruntled fellow DJ (Colm Meaney) decides to hold their station hostage.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 85% **Audience:** 88%

Action

300: Rise of an Empire

Director. Noam Murro

Stars. Sullivan Stapleton, Eva Green

Based on Frank Miller's latest graphic novel Xerxes and told in the breath-taking visual style of the blockbuster 300, this new chapter of the epic saga takes the action to a fresh battlefield-on the sea-as Greek general Themistokles (Sullivan Stapleton) attempts to unite all of Greece by leading the charge that will change the course of the war.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 42% **Audience:** 66%

Are you up for watching Shia in the buff?

Nymphomaniac.
One of Metro's intrepid reviewers checks out the latest from Lars von Trier and shares what he learned about sex

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

Shia LaBeouf leaves nothing to the imagination in Nymphomaniac. CONTRIBUTED

By now many of you may have gotten wind of the latest "event" movie from Danish enfant terrible Lars von Trier, he of the malevolent mind bender Antichrist, the Bjork-starring anti-musical Dancer in the Dark and the lush Melancholia.

When von Trier releases a film, the cinema world races around him in circles, debating furiously, cheering and jeering in equal measure. He knows this and clearly loves to push boundaries and buttons.

With his latest opus, the pornographic masterwork Nymphomaniac, the filmmaker doesn't just push boundaries, he decimates them. The movie stars von Trier's muse, actress and pop star Charlotte Gainsbourg as Joe, a self-described sex addict whose lifelong free-fall into carnality has both liberated her and led her to lubricated ruin.

After dropping jaws all over Europe, the five-hour Nymphomaniac opens in select Canadian markets next Friday, ready to shake our sensibilities with is cavalcade of extreme and explicit couplings. This writer was invited to the Toronto press screening last week, along with most of Hogtown's finest critics. It was an elephantine affair, beginning at 9 a.m. and climaxing at 2 p.m. and was indeed an "event", complete with intermission to provide a breather from the non-stop emissions. The movie is, of course, more than just a star-studded sex film and is in fact, very edifying,

Here then, related in as family-friendly a fashion as possible, are five things I learned while stuffed into a sweaty cinema watching Nymphomaniac…

The version we're getting in Canada is cut

Before the screening, the publicist announced that Canada will indeed be getting the slightly truncated edit of Nymphomaniac, to which some critics sneered.

"Don't worry," the smirking PR assured, "you'll still get plenty of 'stuff' to look at."

Sex is like fly fishing

The framework of Nymphomaniac consists of a battered Joe relating her salacious life story to a kindly bachelor (played by von Trier regular Stellan Skarsgård) who convincingly draws every one of her penetrating anecdotes back to the art of fly-fishing, complete with beautifully shot footage of the hobby sport.

Shia LaBeouf has nothing to hide

He may be marauding around Hollywood with a bag on his head, but troubled Nymphomaniac co-star LaBeouf leaves no other part of his anatomy to the imagination here, dressed as he is in nothing more than a smile for half the film's running time.

Mini-muffins taste great post coitus

During the intermission between Nymphomaniac Part One and Part Two, the publicist treated us wobbly-kneed critics to a spread of mini-muffins, juice and coffee. It was odd discussing LaBeouf's beef and Gainsbourg's fluid performance while huffing down bran, but it was all part of the experience.

The silent duck

Unfortunately, I cannot elaborate on this plot-point, the revelation of which stretches more than the imagination. To learn more, you'll just have to see the film.

And I heartily suggest you do see the film. Because the beauty of Nymphomaniac and all of von Trier's work is that hidden inside its outrageous exterior is something profound, poetic and deeply human.

Nothing too Divergent

Plenty of parallels.
Young actor Theo James talks about the story's mass appeal with young people

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Theo James stars in Divergent, which opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

The new young adult movie Divergent declares, "The future belongs to those who know where they belong."

In the film, a Big Brother style government has divided the post-apocalyptic Chicago into five factions: the altruistic Abnegation sect, the peace loving Amity, the "I cannot tell a lie" Candor group, the militaristic arm Dauntless and the smarty-pants Erudite.

In the middle of this muddle is Four, played by Theo James, a Dauntless warrior with a sensitive side. He's a mentor of sorts and love interest to Tris (Shailene Woodley), a 16-year-old who has recently pledged to Dauntless. During her grueling training, Four helps her disguise the fact that she is "divergent," a person who cannot be pigeonholed into just one designation.

James, the English-born star, beat out half of young Hollywood for the role, which was made popular in the wildly successful Divergent series of books. Sales of more than five million copies puts the novels into Hunger Games territory, but why are they so popular with teens? "I think there are two things to summarize it," says James, a philosophy graduate from the University of Nottingham.

"One, on a generalist level, it's a good story to be able to be involved in in the same way as some others in the genre are. The faction system is a good thing for young people to grab hold of because they can question themselves. They can say, 'Which one would I be in?' There are cliques in high school, and it has those kinds of ramifications.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAR. 14 TO THURS., MAR. 20. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Broadway Theatre 715 Broadway Ave.

Bettie Page Reveals All (STC) Mon 9
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri-Sun Tue
Omar (14A) Mon 7 Wed 9:30
The Reluctant Fundamentalist (PG) Thu 7

Cineplex Odeon Centre 3510 8th St. East

300: Rise of an Empire 3D (18A) No Passes Fri 4:55-7:20-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:20-4:55-7:20-10:10 No Passes Mon-Tue 6:05-8:40 No Passes Wed 2-6:05-8:40 No Passes Thu 6:05-8:40
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sun 6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 8:20
Frozen (G) Fri 4:15 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:15 Mon-Tue 5:45 Wed 1:55-5:45 Thu 5:45
The LEGO Movie (G) Sat-Sun 1:20 Wed 1:40
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4-6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:35
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri 4:25-7:05-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:25-7:05-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Mr. Peabody & Sherman (G) Fri 5-7:35-10 Sat-Sun 2:35-5-7:35-10 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Need for Speed 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 4:30-7:25-10:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:25-4:30-7:25-10:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 5:20-8:25 No Passes Wed 2:05-5:20-8:25 No Passes Thu 5:20-8:25
Ride Along (PG) Fri 5:15-7:40-10:05 Sat-Sun 2:50-5:15-7:40-10:05 Mon-Tue 5:25-8:05 Wed 1:45-5:25-8:05 Thu 5:25-8:05

Galaxy Cinemas Saskatoon 347 2nd Ave. South

300: Rise of an Empire 3D (18A) No Passes Fri 5-5:35-7:25-8:10-10:15-10:40 No Passes Sat 12-12:25-2:30-3-5-5:35-7:25-8:10-10:15-10:40 No Passes Sun 12-2-2:30-4:25-5-6:55-7:25-9:45-10:15 No Passes Mon-Wed 6:50-7:20-9:45-10:15 No Passes Thu 6:50-7:20-9:45
Despicable Me (G) Sat 11
Divergent (PG) No Passes Thu 10
Enemy (14A) Fri 4:40-7-9:35 Sat 12:10-2:20-4:40-7-9:35 Sun 12:10-2:20-4:40-7:05-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:35
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri 4:05 Sat 1-2:30 Sun 1:30-4:05
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Fri 5:05-7:30-10:05 Sat 11:55-2:20-5:05-7:30-10:05 Sun 11:55-2:20-5:05-7:35-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:35-10:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Werther (STC) Sat 10:55
Mr. Peabody & Sherman (G) Fri 4:50-7:10 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:25-4:50-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10
Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D (G) Fri 5:20-7:40-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:40-10:10
Muppets Most Wanted (G) Thu 7:05-10
Need for Speed (PG) No Passes Fri 4:15-7:15-10:15 No Passes Sat 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 No Passes Sun 1-4-7-10 No Passes Mon-Wed 7-10 No Passes Thu 7:30-10:30
Need for Speed 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 4:45-7:45-10:45 No Passes Sat 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45 No Passes Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Mon-Wed 7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 10 No Passes Thu 7
No Clue (STC) Fri-Sat 9:45 Sun-Thu 9:30
Non-Stop (PG) Fri 5:25-7:55-10:30 Sat 12:15-2:45-5:25-7:55-10:30 Sun 12:15-5:25-7:55-10:30 Mon-Wed 7:55-10:30 Thu 10:30
Pompeii (STC) Fri 6:45-9:40 Sat 4:45-7:40 Sun-Tue 6:45-9:40 Wed 6:45-10:30 Thu 6:45-9:55
The Professional (STC) Thu 7:30
Romeo and Juliet (PG) Sun 12:55
Royal Opera House - The Sleeping Beauty (STC) Wed 7
Son of God (PG) Fri 3:50-6:50-10 Sat 1:10-4-6:50-10 Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:55 Mon-Tue 6:55-9:55 Wed-Thu 9:55
That Awkward Moment (14A) Fri 5:30-8:05-10:35 Sat 3:15-5:30-8:05-10:35 Sun 3:15-5:30-7:50-10:20 Mon-Wed 7:50-10:20
Veronica Mars (PG) Thu 7

Roxy Theatre 320 20th St West

The Great Beauty (14A) Fri 9:20 Sat-Sun 3:30-9:20 Mon-Tue 9:20
The Invisible Woman (PG) Fri 6:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-6:50 Mon 6:50 Wed-Thu 9:30
Kaum de Heere (STC) Fri 9:30 Sat 3:30-9:30 Sun 3:30 Mon 9:30
Local Girls (STC) Sun 9:30
The Room (STC) Tue-Thu 9:30
Three Colours & a Canvas (STC) Thu 7
The Wind Rises (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-7 Mon-Thu 7

Rainbow Cinemas Saskatoon The Centre at Circle & 8th

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-9:45
About Last Night (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-6:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:30-7:50 Thu 4:30-7:50
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:40-7:15-9:40
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:10-7:10
Philomena (PG) Fri-Thu 4:20-9:30
RoboCop (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7-9:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-5-8:50

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Kirsten Dunst ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Someone's not happy to see Dunst and Hedlund's relationship in full Bloom

Things are getting serious between Kirsten Dunst and longtime boyfriend Garrett Hedlund — and that's apparently a problem for Orlando Bloom, who briefly dated his Elizabethtown co-star. "Kirsten wants to marry Garrett, and she was shocked when Orlando reached out to her and ripped Garrett apart for his hard-partying, bad boy ways," a source tells Radar Online. "Orlando was basically acting like a jealous boyfriend even though he hasn't been involved with Kirsten for years, and Kirsten called him out on it." Dunst and Hedlund met while filming On the Road and have been dating steadily since 2012. "Kirsten's pals believe she's found a real soul mate in Garrett, and her work and outlook on life have improved dramatically since they've been together," the source says. "They wonder why Orlando is trying to spoil her good time." Those pals do at least have some theories, though: "Orlando is in a bad place in his career and has seen roles that he wanted slip away to hunky younger actors like Garrett," the source offers. "Orlando's meddling, catty behaviour with Kirsten and Garrett is likely to continue until he has another lucky streak in his career. But Kirsten isn't letting anyone get between her and Garrett, least of all Orlando. She hopes to walk down the aisle with him."

Russell Brand

Buying house in India may herald Brand new Russell

Russell Brand is apparently ready to double down on his love for all things India, as he's reportedly looking to buy property there and spend half the year living in the South Asian nation, according to Radar Online. "Russell consulted his Indian guru earlier this year about the idea and is now making noise about buying an estate or plantation in India," a source says. "He wants to be closer to his various spiritual, dietary and health guides in the country and is telling pals that he would like to spend as much as six months out of the year in India." Apparently the memory of marrying Katy Perry in a lavish ceremony at India's Rambagh Palace isn't dampening his enthusiasm for the country, even though the marriage ended 14 months later. "He will probably rent before he plunks down the millions he would need to buy a place," the source adds. "But he's serious about this move, arguably more so than his movie career."

The Word

Woodley got the OK from Lawrence for Divergent role

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

In any career, it's best to find yourself a mentor when you're just starting out — someone who's been where you are and can advise you.

However, if that career is "starring in a blockbuster trilogy based on bestselling books about a brave young girl thrust into a world of dystopian violence," your mentorship options are limited. To, oh, one other person.

Divergent star Shailene Woodley didn't let that stop her — she reached out to her young-adult-adaptation forebear, Jennifer Lawrence, before agreeing to star in Divergent. "I asked Jennifer Lawrence, 'Are you happy with your choice to take on The Hunger Games?'" Woodley revealed to Teen Vogue. "And she said she wouldn't change it for the world. She told me, 'There are some things — don't make a sex tape, don't do drugs, don't do things in public — that you wouldn't want other people judging you for. But this is the best decision you'll ever make.'"

That kind of sounds like Shailene Woodley also asked Jennifer Lawrence for advice on whether to make a sex tape. I'm glad Jennifer said "Nope." It sounds like Shailene has been very discreet, though: She says she's never hooked up on set. After the shoot wrapped, though? That's different. "Well, that might have happened on something...." she said.

Naya Rivera

Is this the final curtain for Glee's Naya Rivera?

Musical TV series Glee has one more season to go, starting next fall, before its final curtain call, but is Naya Rivera not planning to make it that far? Rivera, a member of the original cast who is now part of the show's New York-set storyline, posted a Tweet about working with former cast-member Heather Morris that included a rather cryptic hashtag. "On set with Glee shooting a very sweet Brit/Santana scene! #startto-getherendtogether," she wrote. And while discussing the plans for moving the series completely to New York for the final season, co-star Lea Michele left Rivera's name out while talking to E! News, saying, "It's New York now. So it's me and Chris Colfer and Darren Criss and Chord Overstreet and Kevin McHale." Sources at the show have not yet confirmed who will and who will not be a part of the final season.

Robin plays good father as cancelled shows mount up

Robin Thicke took some time out from his tour over the weekend and flew to Vancouver to spend time with estranged wife Paula Patton and their son, Julian, according to E! News. The recently separated pair seemed in good spirits, laughing together as Julian played at a playground. But maybe the trip didn't go as well as Thicke hoped it would, as he went on to cancel yet another show — this one at Ontario's Casino Rama — due to "unforeseen vocal issues," something that's plagued his tour since his split from Patton was announced. But he seemed fine Monday night in Los Angeles, celebrating his 37th birthday alongside Leonardo DiCaprio and a number of male pals.

Robin Thicke

Twitter

@kelly_clarkson
I have this deep, inner rage that wants to punch winter in the face.

@Louis_Tomlinson
Why am I so s— at tweeting !!!

@josswhedon
"Over the Rainbow" is a pretty song until you realize that ants are making plans

Liquid Assets

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Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Even though St. Patrick's Day isn't until Monday, I'm betting many of you will get the party started tonight and sashay your shillelagh into next week.

Since a quarter of Peter Rockwell comes from the Emerald Isle, I like a pint of green beer as much as the next semi-Irish guy. What the day really brings home to me is the volume of classic booze brands that call Ireland home.

Think Jameson whiskey, Baileys Irish Cream liqueur and, for the beer fans, Murphy's, Harp, and, of course, Guinness. All from a country that's just slightly larger than the province of New Brunswick. While you could choose any one of those (or a combo of a few) to toast St. Paddy, the real mover and shaker in Ireland is cider. No longer a simple summer sipper; the cider category has become a force to be reckoned with.

Magners Original Irish Cider (500 ml, $3.15 - $4.40) balances its apple goodness with a crisp, effervescence that's perfect with a celebratory serving of lamb stew, shepherd's pie or corn beef and cabbage. **PRICES REFLECT RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Every once in a while, you want to experiment with exotic tastes. Bestselling Australian chef Donna Hay shows us how, with a recipe bursting with unique flavours from her cookbook Fast, Fresh, Simple.

Exotic with ease: Lime and Lemongrass Chicken

This recipe serves two. DONNA HAY

FAST, FRESH, SIMPLE
Donna Hay
gustotv.com

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

1. Place the ginger, lime leaves, lemongrass and chili in the bowl of a small food processor and process until finely chopped.

2. Heat a frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the oil and the lime leaf mixture and cook, stirring, for 4 minutes or until fragrant.

3. Add the chicken and cook for 1 minute each side.

4. Add the coconut milk and fish sauce and simmer the chicken for 7 minutes each side or until chicken is tender.

5. Stir through the spinach and serve with steamed rice and coriander leaves.

WATCH DONNA HAY FAST, FRESH, SIMPLE THURSDAYS STARTING AT 10 P.M. EST/PT ON GUSTO TV, CANADA'S NEW FOOD & LIFESTYLE CHANNEL. VISIT GUSTOTV.COM FOR FULL PROGRAM LINE-UP AND MORE GREAT RECIPE IDEAS.

Ingredients

- 6 large slices ginger
- 6 kaffir lime leaves
- 4 stalks lemongrass, white part only, trimmed
- 1 long red chili, trimmed
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 4 x 125 g chicken thigh fillets, halved
- 1 1/2 cups (375ml) coconut milk
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 80 g baby spinach leaves
- steamed rice, to serve
- coriander (cilantro) leaves, to serve

Dessert

Jam Tarts

- 12 round gow gee wrappers
- 50 g butter, melted
- 1/3 cup (75 g) caster (superfine) sugar
- 1/2 cup (160 g) strawberry jam
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) single (pouring) cream, whipped
- raspberries or strawberries, to serve

Preheat oven to 180 C (350 F).

Brush the wrappers with butter and sprinkle lightly with sugar.

Place in shallow patty tins, buttered-side up, and bake for 6 minutes or until golden.

Cool in tin.

Fill the tart shells with jam and whipped cream and top with raspberries or a slice of strawberry to serve.

DONNA HAY, GUSTOTV.COM

Makes 12 tarts. DONNA HAY

One-Pot Chinese Chicken

1. Place stock, ginger, garlic and chili in frying pan over high heat and bring to boil.

Ingredients

- 3 cups (750 ml) chicken stock
- 6 slices ginger
- 4 cloves garlic, halved
- 1 long green chili, sliced
- 1 1/2 cups (300 g) Jasmine rice
- 4 x 125 g chicken thigh fillets, halved
- 4 green onions (scallions), sliced
- 1 cup coriander (cilantro) leaves
- soy sauce, to serve

2. Add the Jasmine rice and stir once to distribute evenly over the bottom of the pan.

3. When the stock comes back to boil, add the chicken.

4. Cover, reduce heat to low and cook for 20 minutes or until the rice has absorbed the stock and the chicken is tender.

5. Top the chicken and rice with the onion and coriander and serve with soy sauce.

DONNA HAY, GUSTOTV.COM

This recipe serves two. DONNA HAY

THE ART OF DRESSING WELL IN SASKATOON

BLUESKYIMAGE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Saskatoon is experiencing a fashion renaissance.

"It's an exciting time for the industry," says Jacqueline Conway, co-founder and director of the Saskatoon Fashion and Design Festival. "The industry as a whole within Saskatoon and the province is really developing and growing, and quite upcoming in terms of our position nationally."

Both the Saskatoon Fashion and Design Festival and the Regina-based Saskatchewan Fashion Week are in their third year, pointing to a major shift in the province's views on fashion. Conway says more designers are choosing to stay in the city, creating diverse looks and brands, and the festival is trying to give those designers a platform to showcase their work.

The city is booming as well, and the growth is a boon to the fashion industry. With the market expanding, there's room for both old favourites, and new designers and retailers. And it doesn't hurt that part of the growth is from people returning to Saskatoon from big cities, bringing with them a more mature fashion sensibility.

A recent Statistics Canada report also pegs the average age of Saskatonians at between 34 and 35, giving Saskatoon the youngest population of any major city in Canada.

"The younger consumer is the more fashionable consumer," says Gordon Burgess, president of Caswells Company Limited. "He's more aware of fashion trends because he's the one who is on the Internet, searching out various fashions."

But Saskatoon hasn't always been so happening; comfort tends to trump style when the weather dips down to – 40. But Conway says even this "culture of comfort" is changing.

"I see stylish women and men all over the place," Conway says.

"A lot more people are more conscious about how they're dressing."

Fashion is deeply tied to the arts, often manifesting as an artistic expression in its own right. Last year, the Saskatoon Fashion and Design Festival partnered with AKA Gallery, and this year, they are featuring work from a fashion illustrator. Saskatoon has always highly valued the arts, and the city's culture is shifting to value style as well.

CONTRIBUTED

BRINGING FLAIR TO MEN'S FASHION

CASWELLS

Caswells has been making men in Saskatoon look sharp since 1911.

For the past 28 years, the store was located in the Scotia Centre, but it recently moved across the street to 144 2nd Ave. S. The historical Hutchinson Building is the fifth location Caswells has inhabited during its 103 years in Saskatoon.

"When a store has been around that long, you have to reinvent yourself every so often, and that's what we're doing in this new location," says Gordon Burgess, president of Caswells Company Limited.

The new store has an updated look, with a more contemporary design, and a lighter, brighter space. The big windows let in lots of sunlight, and Caswells has upgraded to natural-looking LED lights.

Caswells is known for its sought after collection of labels — it has the largest selection of Hugo Boss clothing, and specialize in custom clothing from Coppley — and with the move, the store is bringing in even more great names.

This spring, Caswells will be the first in the city to offer clothing from Zegna, an upper-end Italian suit clothier, and it has expanded its line from Eton, a Swedish clothing company.

The look may have changed, but Caswells still offers the same personalized service as it has for the past 100 years, just with more flair.

TSFM
Caswells
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The Store for Men
144 2nd Avenue South • 306-244-8804 • www.caswellsformen.com

BURTON'S FOR SHOES PUTS YOUR FEET FIRST

The Burton's For Shoes staff takes the time to assist with every shoe fitting.

"We are a family shoe store that is very much old school," says owner Audrey Cote. "Every customer who walks in has their feet measured to ensure we are getting them a proper fitting shoe."

Burton's For Shoes specializes in fittings. It has every size: For women, Burton's has sizes 4 to 13, with widths from 4A to 3E; and for men, it has sizes 5 to 16, with widths from B to 5E. Burton's even has the expertise to fit customers with orthotics.

One of its most popular lines is SAS shoes, an American shoemaker with a mission to keep feet healthy. The handcrafted shoes are made in San Antonio, Texas, using the finest materials.

"The best and most comfortable shoe is a proper fitting shoe," Cote says. "A shoe doesn't become comfortable, it should start comfortable by being properly fitted."

Plus, Burton's For Shoes has styles for everyone and any occasion: It carries casual, walking, and dress shoes, as well as sandals and boots, for men, women, and children. Weddings, graduations, work, or everyday comfort, Burton's For Shoes has your soles covered.

LOOK AND FEEL YOUR BEST

BENEATH IT ALL CARRIES THE BEST NAMES IN LINGERIE

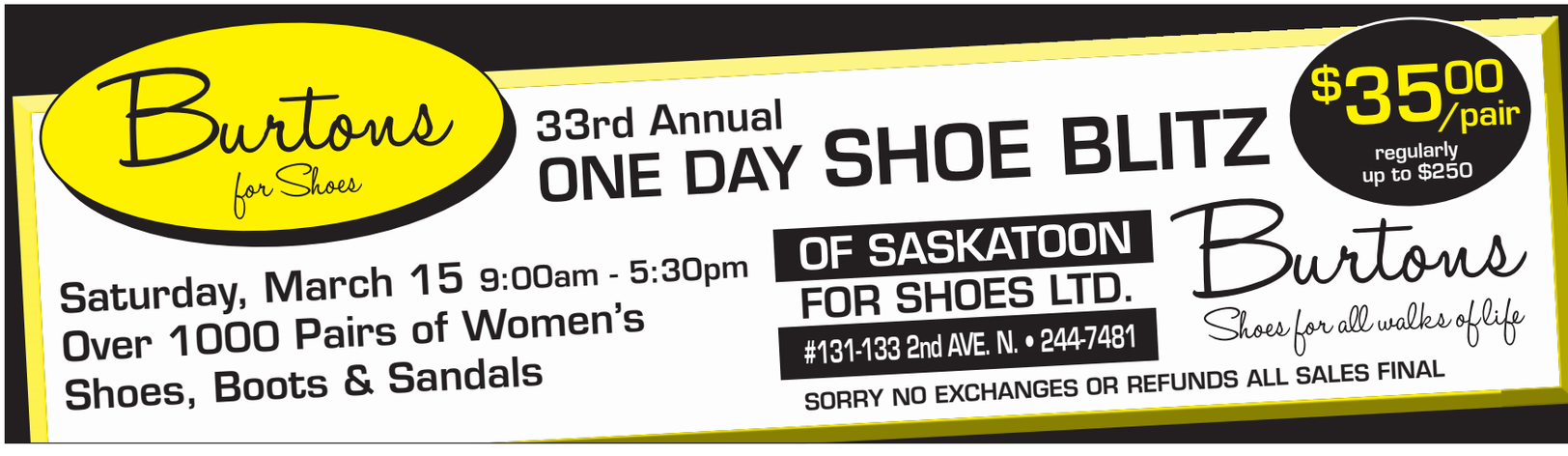
CONTRIBUTED

Great style starts with confidence, and nothing makes you feel more self-assured than fabulous underwear — when you feel your best, you look your best.

Beneath It All Lingerie has no unrealistic expectations of body sizes — all bodies are celebrated. And Beneath It All Lingerie knows that the best bra starts with the right size. The store carries sizes 32A to 48L, and the trained staff will give you a fitting so you know exactly what size to buy.

Beneath It All carries some of the best names in lingerie, including Freya, PrimaDonna, Elomi, Chantelle, Empreinte, and more. And not only does Beneath It All have the most beautiful collection of lingerie in Saskatoon, it also offers shapewear, sleepwear, and selected swimwear. Plus, it keeps your size on file so your significant other can easily buy you gifts.

About 80 per cent of women are wearing the wrong bra size, and many of them don't even know it. Often, women will wear the same bra size for years, which can become a problem since an ill-fitting bra can cause back pain, skin irritation, and breast soreness. Isn't it time you gave your ladies the comfort and support they deserve?



Chamblin locked up through 2017

CFL. Roughriders sign their head coach to a contract extension

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
Metro in Regina

The Saskatchewan Roughriders have inked head coach Corey Chamblin to a contract extension through to the 2017 season, the football team announced Thursday.

In only his second season as head coach, Chamblin led the Green and White to their fourth Grey Cup championship in 2013, clinching the title on home turf in Regina.

"I'm truly excited to be here for awhile," Chamblin, the reigning Canadian Football League's coach of the year, said Thursday. "It gives us an opportunity to keep doing some of the things we're doing."

The Riders will need to rebuild if they hope to make another Grey Cup drive in 2014 after losing two of their offensive leaders in tailback Kory Sheets and receiver Weston Dressler to NFL clubs in the off-season.

The famed franchise was also stripped of starters by the Ottawa Redblacks in the CFL expansion draft last December and through free agency, which started in February.

The high expectations that come with helming a talented squad in football-mad Saskatchewan do not appear to faze the perpetually cool Chamblin.

"Corey brings a lot of things to the table," said general manager Brendan Taman. "He's knowledgeable, he's very confident — he can deal with people."

Chamblin received his fair share of heat in his first year as a coach in 2012 after the Riders were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs following a lengthy regular-season slide.

After a similarly shocking slump rattled the team in the latter part of last season, Chamblin kept his composure throughout, maintaining that his talented squad would start to see results if they continued their strong play.

His words would appear to be prophetic, when the Green and White tore through their opponents en route to a Grey Cup championship.

Corey Chamblin led the Roughriders to a Grey Cup championship in only his second season as a head coach. He will have the opportunity to win a few more after the team signed him to a contract extension Thursday. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Quoted

"Corey brings a lot of things to the table. He's knowledgeable, he's very confident — he can deal with people." Roughriders general manager Brendan Taman, on head coach Corey Chamblin.

NHL

Bruins ascend to Eastern throne

Tuukka Rask made 21 saves and the Boston Bruins beat the Phoenix Coyotes 2-1 on Thursday night for their seventh consecutive victory.

Zdeno Chara and Jarome Iginla scored for Boston. The Bruins took over the top spot in the Eastern Conference with 93 points, one more than Pittsburgh.

Mike Smith made 18 saves for the Coyotes, who had won two straight. Lauri Korpikoski scored for Phoenix. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Sharks shrug off Jackets in shootout

Patrick Marleau scored twice and Joe Pavelski had the lone shootout goal in the San Jose Sharks' 4-3 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Thursday night.

Marleau's goals were his 27th and 28th of the season. Matt Nieto also scored for the Sharks, who are 8-1-1 in their last 10 to move into a tie with Anaheim for the Pacific Division lead.

Backup goalie Alex Stalock made 35 saves for the win. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Sharks' Adam Burish checks the Blue Jackets' Corey Tropp on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WE ARE ALL HUSKIES

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NHL takes aim at faceoff goof-offs

Rule book. GMs look to put a stop to players' tiresome time-wasting tactics

Faceoff changes recommended by GMs could make a real impact on the NHL if approved. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A tired team ices the puck late in a close game and wants to buy as much time to breathe as possible. So one of the wingers steps in on the ensuing faceoff knowing he'll commit a violation to get thrown out and replaced by the regular centre.

It's a play many general managers have seen often and want to get rid of.

"We all know now it's a gimmick," Bryan Murray of the Ottawa Senators said.

So at their annual March meeting, NHL GMs recommended overhauling faceoff rules. Instead of getting tossed out, violators would be forced to stay in and move 12 to 18 inches back, while the faceoff circles themselves would be altered to push players on the outside further apart.

The goal of these changes is to cut down on some of the tomfoolery going on and make things more fair.

"Players and coaches have caught up the management very quickly on why we wanted to have that hurry-up faceoff," Doug Armstrong of the St. Louis Blues said. "We're just hoping to get the integrity back to where we were."

Integrity of faceoffs has been debated by this group for several meetings now. If players are going into draws trying to get replaced, that represents not only wasted time but often a less by-the-book situation on the second go.

That's because a second violation carries with it what could be a severe punishment, but one that's rarely given out.

If the new rule is approved by the competition committee — which is not a slam-dunk — and then the board of governors, it could also make centres more cognizant of breaking the rules the first time because it's that much harder to win a faceoff further away from the dot.

Armstrong's proposal to copy the international rule of having players at least three feet apart on the outside of faceoff circles could also mean "less B.S.," in the estimation of the New York Islanders' Garth Snow. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pulling the switches

There will be another rule change, pending the approval of the competition committee and board of governors.

- **Quick change.** GMs agreed to green-light teams switching ends in overtime to make way for longer line changes.
- **On hold.** Proposals to add more time to the five-minute overtime period and implementation of three-on-three play will not be approved this year.

CIS women's hockey

Huskies suffer loss to begin tourney

Elodie Rousseau-Siro made 24 saves as the top-seeded Montreal Carabins blanked the fourth-ranked University of Saskatchewan Huskies 3-0 Thursday on the first day of the CIS women's hockey championship.

Earlier, Gabrielle Davidson scored two goals as the fifth-seeded McGill Martlets upset the No. 2 Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks 4-1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL free agency

Revis, Sproles find new homes

Darrelle Revis and Darren Sproles found landing spots in the Northeast. Now Steve Smith looks for a new NFL home.

Revis's stay in Tampa Bay was short, and he might not be in New England much longer. After less than a year as a Buccaneer, he was cut Wednesday and officially agreed to terms with the Patriots on Thursday — but only on a one-year deal, albeit worth about $12 million.

Meanwhile, New Orleans traded versatile running back-kick returner Sproles to Philadelphia. And someone will grab veteran Smith after the standout wide receiver was released by Carolina.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Darrelle Revis GETTY IMAGES FILE

Curling

Jacobs still has golden touch

Olympic gold medallist Brad Jacobs opened the Syncrude National Grand Slam of Curling event with an 8-6 win over Brock Virtue on Thursday.

Jacobs' rink, which captured gold at the Sochi Olympics last month, scored two in the 11th end to secure the win over Virtue's Regina team.

Brier champion Kevin Koe split his first two games on the opening day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's Corbin Watson makes a save on Joshua Pauls of the U.S. during sledge hockey action in Sochi on Wednesday. PAVEL GOLOVKIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shut out in Sochi

Paralympics. Canada overpowered by U.S. in sledge hockey semi

There won't be a hockey sweep in Sochi.

Declan Farmer had two goals and an assist Thursday as the United States defeated Canada 3-0 in the sledge hockey semifinals at the Paralympic Winter Games.

It's a bitter pill to swallow for the Canadians, who were trying to become the first country to win the men's, women's and sledge hockey tournaments at an Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"We were tight. There's no secret that we weren't making crisp, on-the-tape passes, and that hurt us. At the same time, we had our chances," said Canadian captain Greg Westlake. "It seemed like we'd have this 10-bell chance at their end and then they'd come back and the puck would end up in our net."

Joshua Pauls added a goal and an assist for the U.S., while Steve Cash made 11 saves to get the shutout.

The Americans will face Russia in Saturday's gold-medal game at Shayba Arena after the hosts defeated Norway 4-0 in Thursday's other semifinal.

Corbin Watson stopped seven shots for Canada, which will play Norway for bronze on Saturday.

Gold medallists in 2006, Canada was also looking to avenge a disappointing fourth-place finish on home soil in Vancouver in 2010 and was perfect through three round-robin games, outscoring the opposition 15-1.

But on a night where nothing seemed to go their way, the Canadians failed to convert numerous chances in front of Cash, a trend that started in their 1-0 victory over the Czech Republic on Tuesday.

The Americans will play for gold for a second straight Paralympics after winning the tournament four years ago.

The U.S. was upset by Russia 2-1 in their final group game here to set up the semi-final against their bitter rivals.

Canada came in having won the 2013 world championship and world sledge hockey challenge — with both victories coming over the U.S. — but lost two of three exhibition meetings with the Americans in the lead-up to the Paralympics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mental meltdown

"It was just one of those game where I think maybe we were trying a bit too hard."

Canadian head coach Mike Modin reacts following his team's 3-0 loss

Russia.

Putin says thanks for keeping politics out of Games

Russian President Vladimir Putin maintained on Thursday that Moscow did not instigate the Crimea crisis and thanked Paralympic leaders for not wading into the tensions over Ukraine.

After Russia's military takeover over Ukraine's Crimea peninsula, several nations, including the United States and Britain, declined to send delegations to the opening ceremony of the Winter Paralympics in Sochi last week.

Sochi's closing ceremony on Sunday will coincide with Crimea's referendum — denounced by Ukraine's government and Western nations as illegal — on whether to join Russia.

With Russia continuing to deny its forces are active in Crimea, Putin remained defiant Thursday as he declared the Paralympics a success in a speech for visiting sports officials. Although Putin didn't name Ukraine in his speech, he referred to the "problematic issues" taking place against the backdrop of the games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No 'I' in Ukraine

"(Russia) was not an instigator, of these difficult circumstances which you know and we are talking about here."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in an address to Paralympic leaders.

Trafford died of self-inflicted asphyxiation: Police

Former OHL player Terry Trafford. TERRY WILSON/OHL IMAGES

Media reports say a Canadian junior hockey player whose body was found in Michigan this week died from asphyxiation, which police believe to have been self-inflicted.

The reports say autopsy results for Terry Trafford, 20, were released Thursday — two days after the missing athlete was found in an SUV in the parking lot of a Walmart store in Saginaw Township.

Trafford, who played for the Saginaw Spirit, had last been seen about 9:30 a.m. on March 3 at the Dow Event Center, the team's home arena.

Brief break

The Ontario Hockey League postponed the Spirit's game on Wednesday so the team could mourn his death. The team will resume its season Friday in Sault Ste. Marie.

At one point in the search, police said they believed Trafford, a centre with the Spirit, might have left the state to return to his hometown of Toronto.

His girlfriend previously told The Saginaw News that he was devastated after the team sent him home "for partying on a road trip."

Trafford had been living with team president Craig Goslin and the News reported Thursday that Goslin told a news conference that "none of us saw this coming."

"Everybody around Terry that loved him — the coaches, the players, former players, his billets — none of us ever saw any sign of depression," Goslin said. "If he had depression, he certainly had it hidden pretty deep." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Because Mars, your ruler, is on good form today, something will happen that has you jumping for joy. Make plans for your professional future but leave yourself some wiggle room in case you want to change your mind.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Use your imagination today. This is a great time for trying new things, especially on the work front where, if you show you are able to adapt quickly to changing circumstances, you could be promoted.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Your mind may be full of ideas but for best results you need to focus on the things that will be of most benefit to you. No matter how many ideas you have your energy is limited.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Let the world know what you are thinking. Some important people will be listening to what you have to say today and if they like what they hear it won't be long before the offers start coming in.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Are you promising more than you can deliver? Maybe, but your confidence is so high at the moment that the thought of failure does not cross your mind, which in turn makes success more likely.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be tempted to take a risk today and because your ruler Mercury is nicely linked to Mars, planet of action and energy, you may well pull it off.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you feel the need to brag about your success, go ahead. It's not often you make noise about how well you've done, so once in a while it's OK.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a good day to take care of the little things that need doing at home and at work. Don't set yourself any grand targets, just get the small stuff done and leave the grand design to sort itself out.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have so many options available to you now that it may be hard to know where to start. For best results you should spend as much time as possible in social situations.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If someone tries to pressure you into doing something you don't approve of today, you must turn them down flat. Yes, you may owe them for favours but conscience comes first.

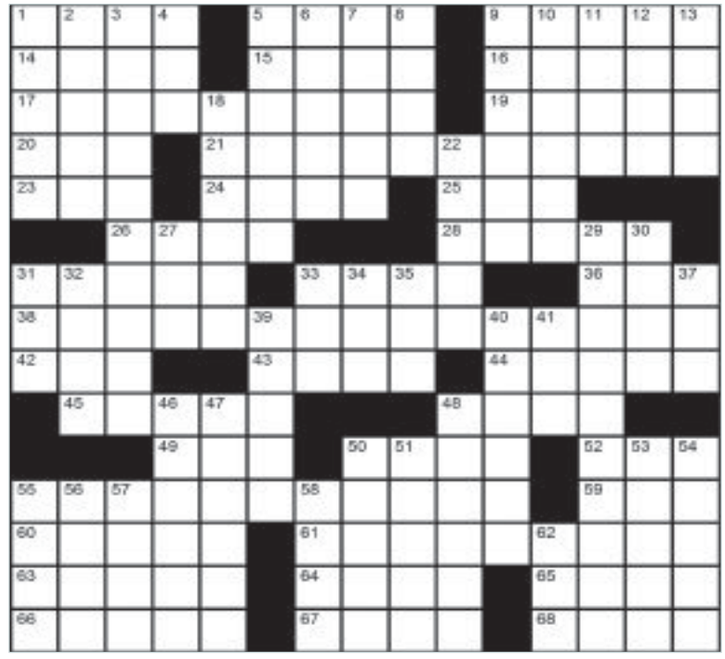
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
With Mercury in your sign linked to Mars your mind will move fast, so fast in fact that it may take a while for the rest of you to catch up! Be careful you don't exhaust yourself — something that can happen to your mind and your body.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There are signs that something you have dreamed of for months is getting closer and very soon will be your reality. Remember: the more you believe that you deserve success the quicker success is likely to arrive. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

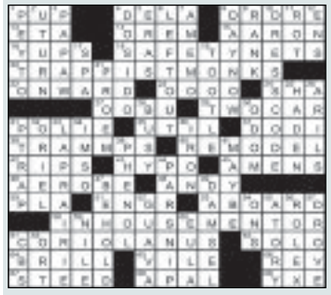
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "Simply __-_-lous!" (Wooonderful!)
5. Bean type
9. __ Bay, Nova Scotia
14. Pres. Lincoln's
15. In the blink __ eye: 2 wds.
16. Part-Canadian band, The __' Spoonful
17. Montreal's Rue Sainte-__
19. _-__ (Gasket)
20. Our national thoroughfare [acronym]
21. Canadian-invented tool, Robertson __
23. Music style
24. Golfing needs
25. German article
26. Nopes
28. Eva and Zsa Zsa Gabor's older sister
31. Trimmings tape
33. Nero's 902
36. 'Quiet' add-on
38. Canadian actor Alan Thicke co-wrote the theme song (with Al Burton and #9-10-Down) to what sitcom? ...and there's another at #1-Down!: 2 wds.
42. R-through-V connection
43. Jacket parts
44. Mr. Wilson, and others
45. Catapulted
48. Not at all, __ __
49. And not
50. Celebes creature
52. Groovy
55. Veronica Mars portrayer: 2 wds.
59. Positive vote
60. Comfy corner
61. People before us all
63. Air freshener
64. Exec's office assistant
65. "CHiPs" name
66. Tendencies
67. "East of Eden" (1955) brother
68. Classic lettered Jaguar models

Down
1. "The __ of Life" (Sitcom for which Robin Thicke's dad at #38-Across and mom at #9-10-Down co-wrote the theme song with Al Burton)
2. Sternward
3. Show gratitude: 2 wds.
4. Work the aisles, in slang
5. Canadian __ (Military)
6. Blazing
7. Barn toppers
8. Again
9. With #10-Down... Robin Thicke's singer/songwriter/actress mom
10. #9-Down's surname
11. Tel __
12. French film
13. Tech sch. grad
18. Screen legend Ms. Williams
22. Resign
27. TV alien
29. Prince Andrew's title: 3 wds.
30. Yemeni port
31. Picks out a suspect
32. Trivial things to pick
33. Train co. headquartered in Montreal
34. Famous TV monogram
35. Mag. edition
37. Slithering snake's shape
39. High wave
40. Palace people
41. Possess
46. Like an ajar door
47. Pad-in-hand observers
48. Anne __, Queen executed in 1536
50. Li'l comics guy
51. American candy maker of Canada Wintergreen mints
53. Variant-spelled hawk's nest
54. Suns
55. Kitchen cabinet opener
56. Taunt
57. Desktop symbol
58. Spaceflight gr.
62. Dallas, __.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	9		2		6	5	7	
					7			8
6						1		2
	2		6			8	4	
				4				
	1	8			2		3	
8		9						5
3			9					
	5	6	7		8		1	

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	3	4	9	6	1	2	5
5	1	9	7	2	8	3	4	6
6	2	4	1	5	3	8	9	7
2	3	6	9	7	4	5	1	8
1	9	5	8	6	2	7	3	4
4	7	8	3	1	5	9	6	2
8	6	7	2	3	9	4	5	1
3	5	1	6	4	7	2	8	9
9	4	2	5	8	1	6	7	3

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No Experience Required.
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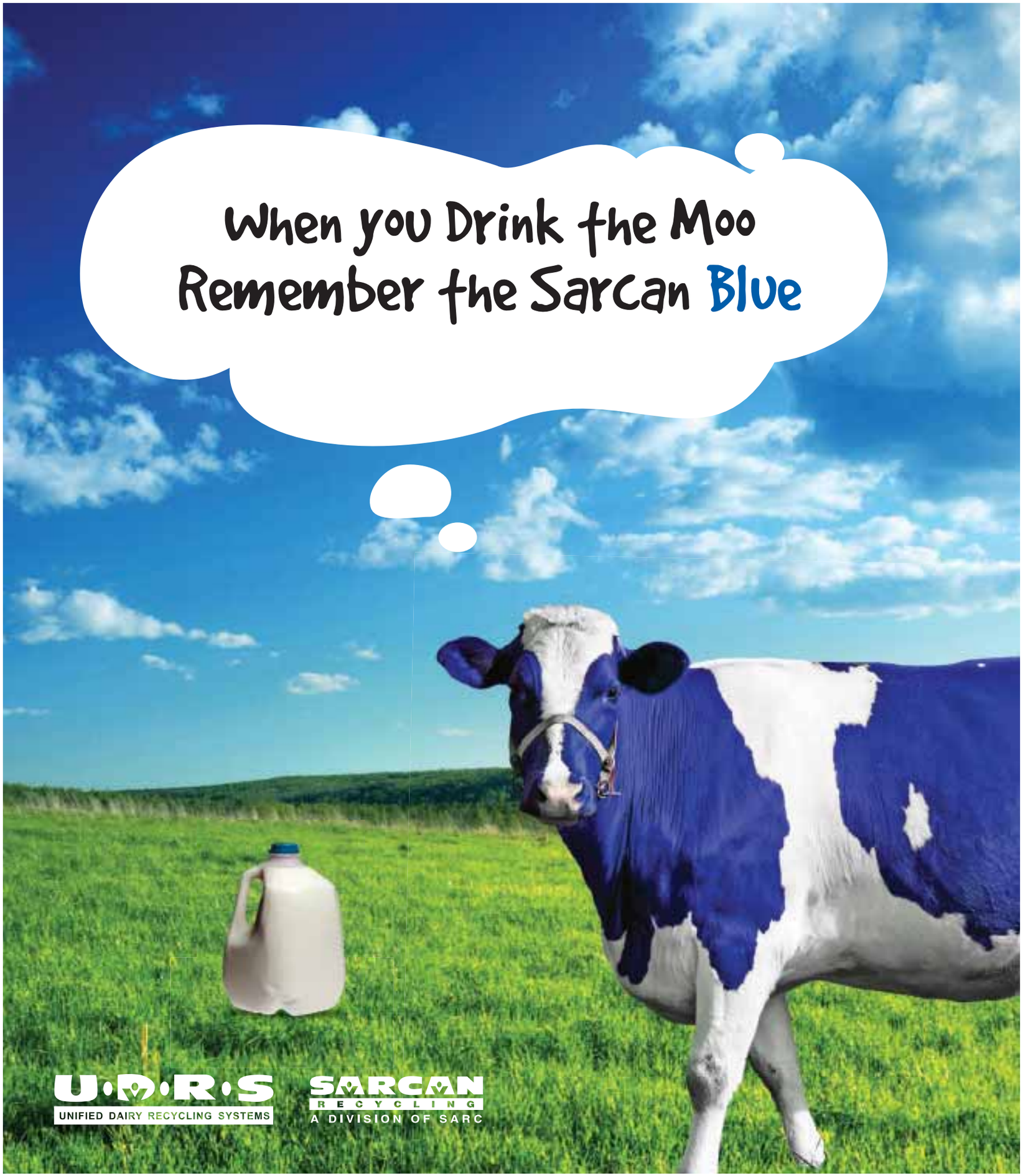
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Remember the Sarcan Blue
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SARCAN
RECYCLING
A DIVISION OF SARC